

# THE C4 NEWSLETTER

## *Colonial Coin Collectors Club*



**RALEIGH PLANTATION TOKEN**

Fall 2003

Volume 11, Number 3



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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

(Ray Williams)

C4 members have much to be excited about, with two major events coming up. Ten days from the time I'm writing this, Stack's will be offering the first of seven Ford Sales. Of particular interest to me is the NJ Copper collection formed by F.C.C. Boyd. This sale also includes Continental Dollars, Vermont Coppers and Fugio Cents – each series representing one of the finest collections ever assembled. I'm sure I'll be seeing many of you there. Then, the C4 Convention is less than a month away. This is the best-attended event of our C4 year, and always features numerous educational events. Our C4 Auction is again being conducted by McCawley & Grellman and will be held on Saturday night. Among many types of colonials, there will be the sale of the John Griffie collection of St Patrick's Farthings, upon which his upcoming book is based. Volunteers are needed to man the C4 Table and help with auction lot viewing – please help out.

Let me take a minute to talk about the educational events. Mike Packard had volunteered last year to take charge of the educational program and here is what we have at the moment:

- *Thursday* afternoon at 2:00, Neil Rothschild will conduct a digital photography session, covering many aspects of both analog and digital photography. It is a must for those of us who wish to share pictures on-line.
- *Friday* evening at 5:30 will be an informal NJ Copper Symposium discussing both the Ford Sale and the completion of the NJ Census that has been published in Penny Wise for over ten years. The bourse floor closes at 7:00, and from then until 7:30 refreshments will be provided. David Bowers was to talk at 7:30, but a family situation intervened and, instead, we will view a video that Dave has made specifically for this C4 educational event. Then, at approximately 8:00, Mike

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Packard will speak about Massachusetts Copper, an appropriate topic given the location of our convention! At 9:00, John Kraljevich will discuss early Maryland economics and coinage. For those who were unable to attend the photography session on Thursday, Neil has offered to give a "Reader's Digest" version for us at 10:00 PM. All events should hopefully have concluded by 11:00 PM.

Saturday's educational events are still being formulated, but will prove equally impressive.

Exhibits are again being organized by Buell Ish – always a highlight of the convention. Dennis Wierzba has been busily making the convention arrangements. Tom Rinaldo is working with Chris McCawley preparing our 9<sup>th</sup> C4 Auction catalog. Since the Griffie Sale at the C4 Convention in 1995, we have had a plated catalog every year. These catalogs are excellent reference books. There are many others working behind the scene to make this event fun and rewarding for all. You owe it to yourself to be there. I certainly will be, and I encourage those who don't know me to introduce yourselves. I enjoy meeting people and placing faces with names. I firmly believe you can enhance your enjoyment of our hobby by attending this convention.

On Saturday morning at 7:30, C4 Board members will have a breakfast meeting. Following this, our general membership business meeting will be held at 9:00, ending in time for you to make it to the bourse floor when it opens at 10:00. This is the forum to express your views, make suggestions and generally be a part of ongoing C4 operations.

Thinking about board members and elected officers, now is the time to submit nominations to Angel Pietri. It's easy... If you know a C4 member that you think would do a good job for any position, just sent Angel an e-mail or letter. The nominee will be contacted and asked if he or she would be willing to run for the

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office. I always disliked elections where there were no choices to make. New officers will be installed at the next Summer ANA Convention in Pittsburgh, PA.

Lastly I'd like to make a request that members make an effort to send in articles for the newsletter. Articles can be short or long, and can provide the results of lengthy research or be just a few lines describing an observation you have made. It doesn't need to sound professional like these presidential messages, the editors will make them presentable. The newsletter is what keeps us informed between conventions – be a part of it.

Have FUN,  
Ray





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Editors' Note: we are trying something new – printing interesting letters sent to us by you, the members. This will allow you to share your ideas, thoughts, and observations related to colonial coin collecting – without needing to write a full article. Send them in!*

I thought I would share with the club my serendipitous discovery this year of the provenance of two of the most important coins in my collection.

I was speaking with John Bush, who is now with Scotsman coins in St. Louis, about my collecting interests. When I got to Vermont state issues, he told me he had purchased a Vermont cast Ryder 5, unattributed in a club auction in St. Louis in the mid-1980s for \$50.00. He held on to it for a few years, then consigned it to the Bowers and Merena 1989 ANA convention sale. Bingo, I was the purchaser of that coin in the auction. As many of you know, several questionable examples of the cast Ryder 5 have appeared in recent years, and although mine does not have the characteristics of these, it was still nice to have the exact history of the discovery of this specimen.

A few weeks later, I attended a coin show where Orville Grady had a copy of the 1914 Chapman auction of the Parsons collection with reproduction plates that I purchased. The first coin in the auction was a Sommer Islands twopence that was plated. I have the plates or pictures of all the known specimens of the Sommer Islands twopence except the one in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford and one reportedly in a London bank vault that

has been handed down through an old Bermudan family. Comparing the plates, I was able to positively identify the Parsons' sale specimen as the Norweb specimen that I purchased in that sale. The Norweb catalogue lists this coin as purchased by the Norweb family from the New Netherlands Coin Company on January 22, 1956. I can now extend the pedigree back to the Parsons' sale in 1914.

It is amazing how sometimes with a little work and a little luck you can add to the pedigree of your coins.

Jeff Lipsky



## **BREEN 161 – AN UNUSUAL HIBERNIA**

(Mark Kleiman)

Breen describes a 1723 Wood's Hibernia halfpenny with no stop after the date, and lists it as "rare". The question arises as to what happened to them all? The interesting observation is that there are different varieties of Breen 161, as shown by the following figures.



FIGURE 1 – An Example of Breen 161 with “3” Close to Harp.



FIGURE 2 – An Example of Breen 161 with “3” Distant from Harp.



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

(Marc Mayhugh)

The name Dr. Mease of Philadelphia, in Brian J. Danforth's article in the summer of 2002 issue of *The C4 Newsletter*, seemed vaguely familiar to me, yet I couldn't quite place it. After rummaging through my hodgepodge of notes, I found Mease's name in the footnotes of some pages I had photocopied from an old book entitled *The Documentary History of the State of New York* as edited by E. B. O'Callaghan in 1850. Like Mease's 1838 reference, this book contained a section on colonial coins. If anyone is interested, I shall attempt to briefly describe them below.

The first coin on Plate I is a bronze *Libertas Americana* Medal. The author gives a meticulous description of the medal, including a narrative on the symbolism involved, telling us that it belongs to the Worden Collection of the New York State Library. The other coin on the Plate is a 1783 Washington & Independence (Unity States) piece. The legends of the coin are described, and it is related that the coin from which this engraving was made was presented to the Albany Institute by William McElory. The two engravings are credited as the work of J. E. Gavit of Albany.

The four *Rosa Americana* coins illustrated on Plate II consist of a farthing, two halfpence of different dates, and a twopence. On the obverse is a laurelled head of George I. The legends according to the denomination: on the farthing it read *Geogrius D G Rex*, for the halfpence it read *Georgius Dei Grata Rex*, and for the twopenny it read: *Georgious D G Mag Bri Fra et Hib Rex*. On the reverse was a double rose surrounded by a crown whose legend read: *Rosa Americana Utile Dulci* with a date. The engravings were done by J. E. Gavit and are credited as being from the collection of the Albany Institute.

To summarize the author's notes on Plate II, it was noted that Dr. Mease was incorrect in assuming that the Rosa American series was struck in America, but makes note of their significance and relationship to Wood's coinage which he states was "immortalized by Swift." An account of Wood's coinage is then given along with a short story of how the Duchess of Kendal was to share in the profit of Wood's patent, complete with a footnote from Swift's poem entitled *Wood an Insect* that read in part: "Such a worm was Will Wood when he scratched at the door...Of a governing Statesman or favorite W----."

The author uses references by Snelling, Ruding and others to tell us that "Wood had the conscience to make thirteen shillings out of a pond of brass...." Further, he relates that the dies were engraved by Lammas, Standbroke and Harold and that some of them came to America with a Mr. Winthrope. One rather interesting section notes that Wood's coinage was "struck at the French Change, in Hog Lane, Seven Dials [London], by an engine that raised and let fall a heavy weight upon them when made hot, which is the most expeditious way of striking Bath metal, of which they were made."

Plate III lists five New York tokens from a collection assembled by a Mr. Vattermare for the French government, depicting specimens of some of the earliest copper currency in this state. The first coin depicts a bust in Roman armor with a fillet of laurel, being a 1787 Nova Eborac. The reverse figure resembles that of Britannia on the old English coins. The second coin depicts the wonderfully designed 1787 Indian and New York Arms copper. The next coin has George Washington as the intended bust and the legend of *Non Vi Virtute Vici*. On the reverse is a seated Liberty with a staff surmounted by the cap of Liberty in her right hand and the scales of justice in her left with the legend *Neo Eboracensis* dated 1786. The fourth coin is the 1787 New York Indian and Eagle on Globe. The final coin is a Talbot, Allum & Lee 1794 cent. The engravings were again done by J. E. Gavit and the first and last coin is noted as being in the collection of the Albany Institute.

What a fascinating group of coins. One of the first questions in need of an answer is who was Mr. Vattermare and why was he assembling a collection of New York coins for the French government? I have never heard of Vattermare but perhaps someone familiar with older catalogues, or early numismatic literature, may recall his name. Secondly, one may wonder if the coins illustrated in Plate III were sent to France, and if so, how did the first and last of these coins end up in the Albany Institute or did the cataloguer intend to say that the coins “were” at one time located at the Institute? After making inquiries, I was able to confirm that the Albany institute still exists, but I was unable to determine if the coins were still there. Thirdly, there is the question concerning the fourth coin in Plate III (Breen 991) which may have been a part of a 19<sup>th</sup> century collection put together by James Ten Eyck, donated to the Institute and sold in the 1920s at auction. Maybe someone who is familiar with that sale could verify this fact.

Overall, I find the multivolume work of O’Callaghan to be a treasure trove of information on New York’s past. I highly recommend this resource to anyone who has an interest in the history of that state.

Source: E. B. O’Callaghan (ed.), *The Documentary History of the State of New York (Albany, 1850)*, vol. III, pp. 716-19.

*EDITOR’S NOTE: William Wood employed a drop press in striking the coins of the Rosa Americana series rather than a screw press as he had used in producing his Hibernia coinage, which was the common method in making coppers at that time. The reason for this different approach in striking his coins rests with the metal employed in the coins for the American Plantations. Bath metal was composed basically of brass being a composite of copper and zinc.*



PLATE I



PLATE II





PLATE III



## **THE FIRST MODERN CONNECTICUT COPPERS VARIETY COLLECTION?**

(Neil Rothschild)

(Recently our intrepid editor put out the usual call for material to fill the next issue. I tossed out the idea of starting a Connecticut column in the newsletter during a Sunday night Yahoo Group chat. There are many interesting tidbits of information that can be relayed in the pages of our fine journal. Syd thought it was a fine idea. Most likely he would have gladly accepted an article about my dog's adventures with the local chipmunks. Such is the lot of our journal editors, past, present and future. So here we are with the first installment. Later installments will talk about anything and everything Connecticut. I will try to mix it up, with material suitable for beginners as well as old hands because we have a varied and growing audience. Questions, comments and suggestions for future articles may be addressed to me via email on the colonial-coins group or to [nrothschild@nmctech.com](mailto:nrothschild@nmctech.com))

Connecticut Coppers are collected today by Miller attribution, with over 350 possible varieties. The 300 mark is a milestone that few achieve. It is "easy" to do this today because we have Miller<sup>1</sup> and therefore a checklist. Finding and acquiring the coins, of course, is a different matter that might cause readers to question how "easy" it is.

How would one collect this series by variety before Miller was published? Did anyone other than Miller and Hall collect this series without a roadmap? A short review of the evolving taxonomy of the series is in order.

In 1859, Montroeville W. Dickeson classified the Connecticut coppers by type<sup>2</sup>, designating obverse only. His designations were

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very roughly similar to Crosby, Hall and Miller, using the legend as a basis for the taxonomy. He failed in this attempt from the perspective that no collection, to my knowledge, was ever described by Dickeson's numbers. However, Dickeson implicitly laid down the challenge to complete this effort and that challenge was met by Sylvester S. Crosby with his 1875 publication of variety tables in *Early Coins of America*. Crosby comments on the probable duplication and excessive varieties recorded by Dickeson.

Within a few years of Crosby's publication the auction record reflects the efforts of the collectors of the day to attribute their Connecticut coppers by Crosby variety. Crosby's tables list his 108 varieties by legend and punctuation, but deals with our modern die varieties only through a count of dies known by legend variety<sup>3</sup>. A few of these varieties were later found not to exist.

In 1892, Dr. Thomas Hall published a listing of the 1787 varieties with his new taxonomy, based on Crosby's variety tables. We now know that he was the genesis for the complete Miller taxonomy of the four years of the series, but few if any collectors of the day had access to his hand written notes describing in meticulous detail approximately 290 die combinations. In 1920, Miller's work was published posthumously and the modern area begins.

Moving back to the Crosby era, John Hazeltine catalogued Crosby's own collection for his June 1883 sale. Crosby's Connecticut coppers collection included 153 lots, consisting of approximately 218 coins. Modern researchers by and large overlook Hazeltine's early work. Many of his early sales from the decade of the 1880's (preceding the Crosby sale) contain Connecticut coppers, and most if not all are attributed by Crosby variety, leading me to believe that Hazeltine took the time to attribute his consignments by the Crosby work. Aside from Hazeltine and the Chapmans, attributions of the era were sketchy at best and when present were most likely prompted by the consignors. A good example is Woodward, a preeminent cataloguer of the era. Woodward rarely bothered with Connecticut

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attributions, even well after Crosby's work was published. The exception is the major sales such as Haines and Curtis. Even with Haseltine's then state of the art cataloguing of the series, Crosby's sale group-lotted the bulk of his entire 1787 33-Z variety collection of 42 or 43 die varieties in a single lot, the lone exception an UNC.

Many Connecticut aficionados are familiar with Hazeltine's T.B. Gregory sale of February 1882. This sale includes a collection by Crosby type encompassing 141 coins in 136 lots. A single group lot includes a six coin Horned Bust die state progression set. Many believe this to be the first significant sale attributed by Crosby types. The Gregory collection was typical of the day, where the series was collected and later sold by Crosby type. Imagine, if you will, a "complete" collection containing but a single example of 1787 33-Z! At the time there was little interest in the individual die varieties of any of these types, with the exception of important bust styles.

The most interesting Gregory coin is lot 362, the final lot: "Date uncertain; a most curious idiotic head; no other Connecticut cent like it; the head plain, but the legend shows scarcely anything but "AUC CONN;" poor; very rare". This description is very similar to other 19<sup>th</sup> century appearances of the 1786 obverse 2 Mailed Bust Right counterfeits, but I have no photos or records of this legend description. Do any readers have a lead on this coin?

Woodward's October 13, 1880 Furgeson Haines Sale included a very comprehensive collection of 126 coins in 126 lots attributed by Crosby. Haines might be considered a Garrett or Norweb of his day. The sale of his collection was met with great fanfare and spanned a number of sales. The year 1880 appears to be the start of the disbursement of the "variety collection" attributed according to Crosby. This collection is a bit weak in the 1786 series but certainly impressive for the era.

Less well known is the Woodward W.T. Curtis sale of June 14, 1880. Adams notes "300 Connecticut" in his American

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Numismatic Literature, Vol 1. This sale contains 310 single coin lots of Connecticut coppers, attributed by Crosby number. The last 36 lots are varieties believed to be "new" or "Not in Crosby". Particularly interesting is the attempt to designate coins by specific variety. Curtis numbered his varieties as Var. 1, Var. 2, etc., with obverse and reverse numbers. Some of these designations appear to be non-existent varieties according to Hall and Miller's later work. Others cannot be positively attributed from the terse descriptions typical of the day. Presumably there were many errors in this early attempt. With all its faults, however, this collection purportedly included approximately 228 varieties of Connecticut coppers!

The variety count does not do this collection justice. Here is a run down of rare type and varieties (attributed by Miller): 1785 4.3-D (2 pcs), 7-D, 8-D, possibly a 6.5-M ("large head, not in Crosby") and if so probably the discovery piece. 1786 3-D.1, 6-K, 7-K. 1787 1.3-L, 3-G.1, 5-P, 7-I, 15-S, and 42-o (discovery piece?). 1788 possibly a 3-B.2 (???), and if the attribution is correct, a 7-F.2, which would most likely be the discovery piece.

The collection is organized in two sections with the second section composed of 35 pieces all not in Crosby.

Curtis was also an error and oddity collector. Several specimens in brass, a number of double strikes and numerous die state progressions with early, intermediate and late states. He put together an 8 stage horned bust die state progression. His 1788 16.3-N set is impressive: an UNC overstruck on a Mass Copper, a cast contemporary counterfeit, and another UNC, "probably a counterfeit". A 1788 16-H\* weighing only 41 grains and almost certainly residing in the ANS collection today<sup>4</sup>.

Hall mentions many contemporary collectors of the day in his Later Notes<sup>5</sup>, including Hays, Canfield and Ryder, but I have not run across Curtis. Curtis lived in Portland. It is possible that Curtis expended an extraordinary amount of time in the research of

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the die varieties, yet left no notes beyond those used by Woodward in the cataloging of his collection. Had Curtis left more extensive notes, he might have been elevated to a position alongside Crosby, Hall and Miller.

## ENDNOTES:

<sup>1</sup> Henry C. Miller, The State Coinage of Connecticut, 1920

<sup>2</sup> Montroeville W. Dickeson, American Numismatic Manual, 1859

<sup>3</sup> See the Colonial Newsletter, Seq. page 81-82 for a comprehensive discussion of the definition of types and varieties by Dickeson, Crosby, Hall and Miller.

<sup>4</sup> The ANS collection includes a 1788 16.5-H weighing only 37.84 grains. The attribution is inked in the left obverse field and the weight is inked on the drapery.

<sup>5</sup> Dr. Thomas Hall's handwritten notebook describing over 290 die varieties. Written circa 1890 and updated through at least 1904. Available from the C4 lending library.



## LOVE TOKEN? AN INTERESTING BAR COPPER FIND

(Dave Townson)

Like many of those who have attempted to secure a Bar Copper, I have had my share of failures. I must have purchased 2 or 3 “authentic” pieces that turned out to be copies before I learned enough to tell the real McCoy from the numerous fakes. For instance there was the “F-VF” piece I purchased from CollectorsInternet.com that was guaranteed to be real, but upon receipt took approximately 0.5 seconds to see that it was a poorly made cast copy. I walked right back into the Post Office and mailed it back; unfortunately, getting my money back took nearly 3 months and finally required going through PayPal arbitration to get a refund from the seller. That lesson cost me almost \$50.00 in

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postage and other charges in the end. But these kinds of lessons paid off one day.

I was buying a box of counterfeit colonials, maybe 60 pieces in all, at a local show. There were a few really interesting struck pieces, and many of the cheap casts that you can easily pick up for \$2-\$5. Almost all were the older type and did not have the 'copy' stamp on them. I felt that the value of the few struck pieces warranted the purchase alone, so we settled on a price for the whole box that worked out to be about \$5 per piece.

When rapidly looking through the box at the show I noticed that one of the Bar Coppers (there were a few in the box) was interesting because it had been engraved with a nice 'T' and a 'Y' on the obverse. The other pieces were obvious copies, but I asked the dealer what the story was with the engraved piece...it seemed to be struck. I was told that "It has to be counterfeit because no one would engrave a real Bar Cent". I did not attempt to decipher the logic of the argument.

When I got home and began inspecting the pieces I started to focus on the struck pieces and especially the engraved Bar Copper. It had a film on it from being placed in one of the old PVC holders for many years, and luckily this came off easily with some CARE. The surfaces were quite nice, probably a solid AU in terms of wear. I knew the diagnostics to look for, and they were all there. I checked my references anyway....hmmm.. "It couldn't be real" I thought. Later, I showed the piece to Don Mituzas and he proclaimed it genuine. Subsequently, I showed it to Dave Wnuck, and he confirmed it as well. I had purchased a Bar Copper in a box of mostly junk counterfeits.

I began wondering what the 'T' and 'Y' meant, and both Don and Dave gave me good ideas. It could be a last name: Tusay. I looked recently in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century census data for the U.S. but came up empty. However, I have discovered from my research that it is a real last name. My search of the census

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was not extensive, and this is still a possibility. However, it could also be a Love Token: 'T' and 'Y' being the initials of the respective parties.

I'm not sure what the piece is, but based on the high grade, I'd tend to think that it was engraved within a decade or less of issue (1785), and removed from circulation. I side with the Love Token argument because I can easily see it having been saved for many years as a memento – but not as a pocket piece, it doesn't display the kind of wear I've often seen. The pictures illustrate the coin well, though there is some faint redness in the protected areas (thanks to Dave Wnuck for the photos).



FIGURE: Dave's Bar Cent Love Token





## RALEIGH'S PLANTATION TOKEN - A MYSTERY

(Joe Lasser)

Among the more provocative pieces in colonial coin and metal collecting is Betts #15 – Raleigh's Plantation token. C. Wyllys Betts, a New Yorker of the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, authored a compendium of medals relating to American colonial history that was published after his death in 1894 and remains the standard reference ever since. William T. R. Marvin and Lyman H. Low, who edited the work, cautioned in the Editor's Preface that:

“...his [Betts] work contains descriptions of a few Medals the connection of which with America is considered doubtful; of some, the date of which is uncertain; and of others, which, if the date when they were actually issued were alone considered, might be excluded.”

The Raleigh Plantation token has elements of all three of these flaws. The piece is brass and has a rose on the obverse with the surrounding inscription: AS SOONE AS WEE TO BEE BEGVNN WE DID BEGIN TO BE VNDONN. The reverse has a boy, reclining to his right on a skull with a blossoming rose at his feet and a building with a steeple in the distance. Betts cautioned:

“...This Medal has been said to refer to Sir Walter Raleigh's unsuccessful attempt in 1584 to establish a colony on the coast of North Carolina, under a patent from the Queen. Its application to Raleigh or America is however extremely doubtful...”

Adding to the string of uncertainties is Jules Fonrobert's remark in his *Sammlung uberseeische Munzen und Medaillen* (Berlin, 1878)

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wherein he gives the date of this token as 1660, to which Marvin and Low say: "...if so, it can of course have no reference to America..." So, we really don't know the why or when of this token, nor do we know who produced it.

Adding a further element of complexity, which apparently has not been publicly discussed in the numismatic community, is the fact that the medal comes in more than one diameter and more than one weight. This point is illustrated in the accompanying two specimens: one is 30 millimeters in diameter and weighs 174.0 grains; and the second piece is 29 millimeters in diameter and weighs 274.4 grains. Both pieces have been struck from the same obverse and reverse dies, and both have indistinctly struck center reverses and weak reverses. Is the second piece a piedfort -- or, is it a normal strike, with the lighter weight token an aberration?



FIGURE 1 – Lightweight Raleigh's Plantation Token



FIGURE 2 – Heavyweight Raleigh's Plantation Token

So, dear readers, do you have: Any surmises? Any theories? Any conclusions?

If you own a Raleigh's Plantation token, please weigh it and send the data to me. A photo would prove to be of significant value. Forward information to: Joe Lasser, 119 Cushman Rd., Scarsdale, NY 10583-3405.

This will assist me in my attempt to improve our knowledge relating to this token. Possibly we can get a few steps closer to unraveling a mystery.

Source: William T. R. Marvin and Lyman H. Low (ed.), *American Colonial History illustrated by Contemporary Medals by the late C. Wyllys Betts* (Winnipeg: reprint, 1964), pp. vi, 6.



**CLINTON’S NEW JERSEY RAID**

(Marc Mayhugh)

Late on the evening of December 19, 1776, and into the early morning hours of December 20, 1776, General George Clinton conducted a successful raid into the Tory stronghold of Northern New Jersey. While this raid may have provided slight relief for the American troops in New York, it probably had very little effect on the outcome of the American Revolution, and was but one of the endless clashes between Royalist and Revolutionary forces. This expedition did, however, provide us with a small insight into the circulating currency of 1776, for afterwards General Clinton composed a list of prisoners taken and their confiscated personal effects.

The exact circumstances of the prisoners capture and their confiscated goods are not given in the Clinton Papers, but its fairly safe to assume the money taken from them was either on their person, or within their homes at the time of the raid, giving an indication of what currency was actually in circulation during the early phases of the American Revolution.

Following is the list of prisoners and their money:

Hendrick E, Manuel	1/8 of a dollar from him.
Matach Knecht	20 dollars in paper from him
David Byer	
Isaac Montanye	2 coppers
Peter Fisher	1 copper
Wm. Staat	L.M. (Lawful Money): 11 shillings& 4 coppers hard money. Paper: 2

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Jacob Morris	shillings, 3 pence Philadelphia Currency; 5 shillings York Currency 1/8 of a dollar & 1 copper; 15 shillings York Currency
Jacob Cole	
Wm. Winter	1 shilling Delaware.
Lodwick Fisher	1 Stock Buckle, 1 copper, and 1 sleeve button
Henry Vanwinker	¼ Dollar and 1 copper.
Soloman Demartje	8 shillings York Currency; 2 cows, wagon, and 2 horses.
Nicholas Vanworker	3 silver dollars; 2 coppers, and 2 shillings York Currency
Henry Lobach	
John Wanemaker	Half a dollar
Cornelius Wanmaker	8 shillings 3 pence L.M., 6 coppers

It should be noted that other names appear on the roster but the citing of money ends at this point. Residences and chattel are later enumerated for several of the captives.

If any conclusions can be drawn from this listing they are pretty much what one would expect, that being, “that hard money was a scarce commodity” in the revolutionary era, and consisted of a hodgehodge of currencies. Three of the prisoners in the listing were not given credit for having any money at all. Of course, this could simply be a case of the clerks failing to record it, or perhaps they stashed their money when it became evident they would be taken prisoner. When one looks at the meager holdings of the other prisoners, it is not too hard to imagine that some prisoners had no money at all. For example, one prisoner had but one copper, another 2 coppers, and one had 1 copper, a buckle and a button. Very few of the prisoners had over a dollar in their possession. Paper currency was represented from several different states, and all divisions of the Spanish fractional system were present, 1/8dollar, 1/4 dollar, half dollar and one dollar.

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Source: "The Public Papers of George Clinton" 1899. {No278};  
*Dec.23,1776.List of prisoners Taken in Jersey on General  
Clinton's Recent Night Expedition.*



## **ANA POST-CONVENTION COURSE AT WILLIAMSBURG**

(Dave Menchell)

For those of you who did not have an opportunity to participate in the ANA course on 18th century numismatics at Colonial Williamsburg following the Baltimore Convention, I just wanted to provide a brief summary. The course was well planned, with an introductory discussion of the economics and coinage circulating in Virginia during the 18th century, given by John Kraljevich. The participants then toured the facility where much of the research and artifact conservation is conducted. A particularly fascinating demonstration was the de-lamination of a piece of Colonial currency previously sealed between two pieces of acetate.

The highlight of the course was the second day. After a short discussion on the circulating coinages of the period by Joseph Lasser, the coins and medals, largely assembled and donated to the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation by him, was brought out and displayed. The material was divided up into several trays by category, with curators seated behind the tables and the salivating collectors seated in front, eager to see and handle the goodies in the cases. What was there to see? The range and quality of the material was simply spectacular: virtually complete runs of Massachusetts Oak and Pine tree coinage (a number with Hain pedigrees), a NE shilling, several Willows (with sharply defined trees!); Somers Island coinage; a number of New York pattern pieces (George Clinton, a knockout Eagle on Globe, Confederatio, Standing Indian and NY Coat of Arms, etc.); several Continental

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Dollars, including a brass specimen; rare Washington pieces, including a Getz silver half dollar, the oval gold Funeral medal previously owned by John Marshall, a multiple denominational pattern copper, Roman Head cent, Non Vi, etc.; great medals, such as the 4" Jefferson Indian Peace medal, a gold William and Mary College medal, the silver De Fleury medal, silver and copper examples of the Germantown medal, a silver Kittaning medal, and other pieces too numerous to mention. I would suggest that the ANA extend the course a day just to allow more time to examine the collection.

The third day the group visited the brass foundry to see how brass counterfeits would have been produced in the 18th century. Molds had been made from a 1771 British halfpenny. The group observed how molten brass was then poured into the mold. After cooling, the molds were opened and, voila, a tree of 12 brass counterfeits popped out! The coins were wire-brushed to remove any residual sand (to the horror of the people watching), sawed off the sprues, then finished by the participants with files to smooth the edges. A little pickling in sulfuric acid to darken the planchets, and you have a very nice cast counterfeit, which we were allowed to keep. A very nice touch!

Although there wasn't enough time to see everything, there is also one of the premier libraries in the country containing material dealing with Colonial history. If the course is repeated, I would encourage everyone to sign up. You could also contact Eric Goldstein, who said that he would be happy to go through items from the collection with individuals, given some advanced notice. The only sad note was, having bid on some of these items in past sales, the realization that the material in the collection will not be available to collectors in the future. Oh well, we all had an opportunity to examine these great coins and there was no bidding pressure or drained bank accounts as a result. Anyone interested in a very contemporary cast counterfeit?



## HISTORICAL NOTES

**LOST POSSIBILITIES OF AMERICAN COINAGE.** Taken from the *Massachusetts Spy* (February 5, 1784) as reprinted in the *American Journal of Numismatics* (April, 1874), p. 88, we have:

“The custom of the Greeks and Romans, in perpetuating the great achievements of their patriots and heroes, by significant inscriptions on their current coin, was a policy very worth of imitation. Perhaps the hints here suggested, may not be altogether useless, when Congress think proper to establish an American coinage.

“The piece of greatest value, might have on one side, General Washington, in armour, with a wreath around his head: His right hand pointing to a globe, supported by liberty with her spear and cap; and on the globe, the continent of North America. Circular inscription; WASHINGTON, the FATHER of his COUNTRY.— On the reverse a shepherd reclined under a pine, playing on a reed, with oxen before a plough, and sheep near him. Circular inscription—PEACE, the FRUIT of GLORIOUS WAR.—1783.

“On another coin, may be depicted an escalade of a city.—A hero in the principle light, advancing to the walls. Inscription.— MONTGOMERY SOUGHT *and* FOUND the GOAL of HONOUR. On the reverse; a cottage, &c. a hero in armour, between Liberty and Justice, looking back as he is leaving it. Inscription—GLORY and MY COUNTRY CALLS.—1775.

“It is said that General Warren was sensible of the perilous situation of the party on Bunker’s Hill, when contending with a superiour British army; yet thought there was a propriety at the commencement of hostilities, that the foes to his country, should



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feel and dread the American resistance; and he fell a sacrifice to that sentiment.

“A warrior with his sword drawn, standing near a slight fortification, from which might rise clouds of smoke; just before it, the enemy flying, and some living dead. Inscription. WARREN, AMERICA’S FIRST MARTYR.—On the reverse; the hero’s bust, and over it FAME, with her trumpet in one hand, and a wreath in the other. Inscription, HE LIVES IN COLUMBIA’S WARM REMEMBRANCE.—1775.

“The important event at Saratoga, may be delineated by a General surrendering his sword into his conqueror’s hands. Inscription, GATES VICTORIOUS.—On the reverse; Columbia encircling the brows of her soldier with laurel. Inscription—AMERICA IS GRATEFUL.—1777.

“General Greene’s very important services to the southward, might be represented by a leader pointing with his sword to a flying enemy, their standard under his feet. Inscription—GREENE, the TERROUR of HIS COUNTRY’S FOES.—On the reverse; a warrior entering the temple of fame. Inscription—COLUMBIA EXULTS IN SUCH SONS.—1782.

“Thus the noble fall of Mercer, the gallantry of Wayne, and the intrepidity of Jones, might be handed down to posterity, in the most diffusive and permanent manner. Current coin is more or less in the hands of all; and endures when statues of marble lie prostrate in the dust.”

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**BUY PRICES.** Collectors of state coinage might find the buy prices offered by the Numismatic Company of Texas (B. Max Mehl) in its Star Coin Book , 26<sup>th</sup> Edition, to be interesting. Price ranges are given, with the higher price being for uncirculated coins.

NJ:

1786, Horse head, shield, date under beam	\$50 - \$150
1786, '87, and '88, horse head, shield	\$.10 - \$.25
1787 Justice, shield; Immune Columbia	\$5 - \$25

Vermont:

1785 Head, Justice; Immune Columbia	\$2 - \$3
1785 Eye, Justice; Immune Columbia	\$3 - \$5
1785 Eye; Sun: Vermontis Republica	\$.50 - \$1
1786 Bust; Vermon Auctori	\$.10 to \$.30
1787 Bust; Vermon Auctori	\$.15 to \$.30
1787 Eye, Sun; Vermontensium Republica	\$.30 to \$.50
1788 Bust; Vermon Auctori	\$.15 to \$.30

Massachusetts:

1787 or 1788 Half Cent. Indian; Eagle	\$.25 to \$.75
1787 or 1788 Cent. Indian; Eagle	\$.25 to \$.75
1787 Cent. Indian; Eagle (Arrows on left)	\$30

Connecticut:

1785, '86, '87, or '88 Bust; Auctori Connec	\$.10 to \$.20
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Editor's note: based on the first of the Ford sales, it is doubtful that these prices will hold through the remaining ones!

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The C4 meeting held in conjunction with the ANA Convention this past August was well attended, and was ably chaired by Leo Shane. The editor thought you might be interested in seeing a few candid shots of the attendees, which appear on the following page. What a group!





## C4 LIBRARY NEWS

(Leo Shane, Librarian)

A suggestion was made at the C4 meeting at ANA to bring the library photofiles to the annual convention in Boston. I think this is a great idea and plan on having them available at the club table through Saturday (not Sunday) for any members to view. At the end of the day on Saturday, you can sign out any photofiles you would like to borrow for the 30 day loan period.

I have been in contact with Nancy Green (ANA Librarian) and she informs me that since C4 is a club member of ANA, our membership can borrow books from the ANA library even if you are not an individual member. The only requirement is that all requests must come through the C4 librarian (me). You can search the ANA website for a particular book you need or just send them an e mail with the title and/or author and they will let you know if it is available. Then, send me an email or write me a letter and I'll request it for you.

We continue to get donations and our library is growing. Take a look at the C4 website for the most current listing. Your librarian now has 7 boxes of auction catalogs donated by Cecilia Madigan from her late husband Tom's library. Cataloging these is a job I hope to get to in the coming months. Thank You Cecilia and to all who have donated in the past. Your contributions are appreciated by all C4 members.

*The library is now taking donations of EAC's Penny Wise Newsletter. If you have any original copies you wish to donate, please write or e mail me so that we can avoid having duplicates.*

*Suggestions for additions to the library are always appreciated. Please consider donating books, auction catalogs,*

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*etc. to the library. Remember, those who are learning about colonials now are those who will be buying your coins later.*

Thank You, my e-mail is [Leo.J.Shane@honeywell.com](mailto:Leo.J.Shane@honeywell.com) or write to me at [REDACTED].



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

CoinFacts (at [www.coinfacts.com](http://www.coinfacts.com)) is a free Internet resource with a nice section for Colonial coin collectors. The goal is to illustrate and describe each Colonial coin variety, many of which have already been completed. Please visit often -- the site is being built for YOU. If you need help navigating the site, simply email me. Ron Guth, President, CoinFacts.com, Inc.; [ron@coinfacts.com](mailto:ron@coinfacts.com)

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Our 2003 C4 convention will be held in conjunction with the Bay State Coin Show on 6-9 November 2003. It will be held in Boston at the Radisson Hotel (617-480-1800 for reservations – ask for the special “Bay State Coin Show rate”). Thursday night will be our reception, Friday night the educational forum, and Saturday night our C4 auction.

The C4 auction is restricted to members of C4 and/or EAC. To consign coins to this important sale and/or obtain a catalogue, contact Chris MaCawley, [REDACTED], or Bob Grellman, [REDACTED], or Tom Rinaldo ([tom.rinaldo@worldnet.att.net](mailto:tom.rinaldo@worldnet.att.net)). It looks like a tremendous sale, with the John Griffiee Saint Patrick coins being the centerpiece!

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As most of you have heard by now, the John J. Ford, Jr. collection will be sold at auction by Stack's on October 14, 2003. There will

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be fabulous runs of Colonial Dollar, New Jersey, Vermont, and Fugio coins.

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Roy Bonjour is conducting a survey of the following Vermonts:

32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38

If you own, have owned, or know about the existence/location of any of these coins, I would like to hear from you. As in my past survey, there will be complete confidentiality if you wish.

Roy Bonjour  
  
[r.bonjour@att.net](mailto:r.bonjour@att.net)



### **Classified Ads**

Ads for this newsletter can be purchased as follows:

	1 issue	2 issues	3 issues	4 issues	Copy size
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1/2 page	30	55	75	\$95	4-1/2"x 3-3/4"

Covers cost somewhat more (please inquire). If you want to include a photo with your ad there will be an additional \$10 charge. A black and white photo will be needed, but the size can be adjusted. Please send check with your ad. We accept camera ready copy or any Microsoft Word compatible computer file.

All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 13 lines of text.



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information from collectors, especially about the rarer pieces. I can be contacted at my home address or through my web site.

George Fuld, Sc.D.



or [Fuld1@comcast.net](mailto:Fuld1@comcast.net)



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For more information, see


[http://www.geocities.com/copperclem/Counterfeits\\_page3.html](http://www.geocities.com/copperclem/Counterfeits_page3.html)

Clem Schettino,



[copperclem@attbi.com](mailto:copperclem@attbi.com)



Wanted to trade: The Connecticut State Copper Coinage 1785-1788 as illustrated by The George C. Perkins Collection by Stacks for a fine or better Connecticut, The Fugio Cents by Alan Kessler for a very good or better Fugio, The Coins of New Jersey Quarterman reprint of Edward Marris for a fine or better New Jersey. All books are hardbound. Also wanted a Durst, that's right a Durst reprint of Coinage for Colonial Virginia by Eric Newman. Alan Anthony  or [vacoinage@aol.com](mailto:vacoinage@aol.com)



For Sale Spanish/American two reales contemporary counterfeits:



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- 1708 Spain Charles III pretender (brass) VF \$350
- 1723 Spain Philip V (silver) VF-XF clipped \$250
- 1724 Spain Louis I (brass) F/VF ex. rare \$475
- 1727 Spain Philip V (silver) VF \$350
- 1736 Spain Philip V (silver) F \$175
- 1810 Columbia K10A-P4 (brass) rarity-7 F \$325

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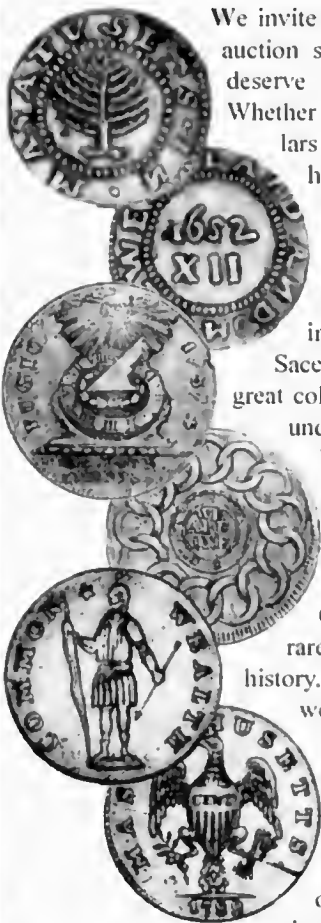
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